

Home of Walt Whitman
Camden, Camden County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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HOME OF WALT WHITMAN
Camden, Camden County, New Jersey

Additional Data from "The Month", published by Coodspeed Book Shop, Boston.

"WHITMAN IN MICKLE STREET

"This autograph note of Walt Whitman, framed in black-and-gold with an etched portrait, the whole measurements being about 23-1/2 by 14-3/4 inches, makes a handsome library piece. The etching by Bernhardt Wall is after the portrait by G. C. Cox. The note, written in pencil from Whitman's little house in Camden, New Jersey, reads:

* * * * *

328 Mickle Street
Camden, Jan. 31, '87 - P.M.

Dear friend

I have been somewhat down for days, even weeks past, but am better now - have been out a little to-day, driven in the phaeton. Come over very soon & see me. Nothing particular, but it will cheer me up. Bring anybody you like with you.

X

Walt Whitman

Put this in the 'Personal' col. Feb. 1.

* * * * *

"The little house in Mickle Street, Camden, with 'W. Whitman' on a brass plate on the door, was a source of pride to the aging poet. It was the only house he had ever owned. He used to sit in a front window and visit with the children on their way to school. His upstairs study, which he called his den or cabin was just as he wanted it - filled with books and pictures, with a luxurious litter of his own bold manuscript. The phaeton he speaks of was also a consolation and it has its place in his later history. Binns writes:

'In the following summer (1885) Whitman had a slight sunstroke, which rendered walking much more difficult. For several months he was a good deal confined to his little house, but his friends promptly came to the rescue with a horse and a light American waggon. He was overcome with gratitude for the gift - driving, as we have seen, was one of his delights - and he promptly began to make full use of his new toy. He soon disposed of the quiet steed, thoughtfully provided, and substituted one of quicker paces, which he drove furiously along the country roads at any pace up to eighteen miles an hour. Rapid movement brought him exhilaration, and he displayed admirable nerve upon emergency.'

"This brief, pencilled note which seems to say little actually presents the major theme of Whitman's last years - his touching desire for quiet comradeship at the little house in Mickle Street, his failing strength, and surviving passion for life outdoors. Autograph note and etched portrait, framed together, \$75."

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WALT WHITMAN HOUSE
330 Mickle Street
Camden, Camden County
New Jersey

Owner: City of Camden.

Date of Erection: Before 1884.

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition:

Number of Stories: Two, and cellar.

Materials of Construction: Wood.

Other Existing Records: See text.¹

Additional Data: See following page.

¹ See Boyer, C.S., Annals of Camden, no. 1, pp, 13,14 for text
and illustration of house.

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WALT WHITMAN HOUSE
330 Mickle Street
Camden, Camden County
New Jersey

HISTORICAL NOTES:

Walt Whitman lived at 330 Mickle Street.
A tablet on the house reads:

"Here lived the 'Good Gray Poet', Walt
Whitman, from 1884 to the date of his death, March 26, 1892.

"This house is now owned and dedicated by
the city of Camden to the memory of its famous citizen.

Source: New Jersey Buildings and Biographical Sketches,
collected and edited by Mrs. Walter W. Jackson,
of Rahway, New Jersey.

(Revised at HABS Headquarters,
by H.C.F., 1936.)
(Original sheet in field note-
book).